

The Granite Belt Naturalist

Monthly Magazine of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
P.O. Box 154 Stanthorpe , orana@halenet.com.au, Pres. 46835268, Sec. 46836374

Coming Up

Outing Sunday August 20th: Rivertree led by Ian Milinovich

Next Meeting 23rd August: Annual General Meeting. Program *Remember Last Year.*

Supper

Wildflower Walk 10th September: Amiens State Forest

Outing Report Woolloomooloolin (Wellington Rock) Sunday 23rd July 2006

Leaders: John Sommerlad and Kris Carnell

Three cars left from Weeroona Park to travel to Woolloomooloolin on 23rd July. We met up with some more Stanthorpe Nats and four people from Tenterfield Nats at the turnoff to Basket Swamp on Mt Lindesay Road, so that we ended up with 24 people. On the way in we noticed some *Acacia ulicifolia* (Prickly Moses) coming into bloom.

When we arrived at Woolloomooloolin a Lyrebird was calling in the gully. It kept it up all the time we were there, except for a short time when we walked around the rock close to where it was performing.

John Sommerlad played a tape of Woolloomoolool's son singing about his father who was the strongest leader in the area. It was very special to hear the song at the rock, for although we had visited the area several times, this was the first time we learned about the aboriginal heritage. No one else was allowed to go to Woolloomooloolin while Woolloomoolool was alive, as it was his special place, but after he died and his spirit came back, anyone could go there. As a sign that his spirit had returned, a rock fell from the top, and then his people knew that they were free to go there.



We set off to walk around the rock with John leading the way along an overgrown track that was built by National Parks with the help of local aboriginal people. Amongst the bracken were dozens of orchid leaves, but no flowers at present. The going was rough for a start, and the Native Holly very prickly, then we walked onto the rock, which was much easier, and admired a cluster of rocks that looked as if they could have been

people turned into stone. John told a story about them, which we were quite ready to believe, until he admitted that he had just made it up.

We walked over some Tetratheca (Black Eyed Susan) plants amongst the rocks, with an occasional flower in bloom. When we arrived at the place where the rock is balancing, most people climbed up to look at although some preferred to sit

After lunch, we continued wombat burrow on the way. a few flowers out including, (Running Postman), two Hibbertia (Guinea Flower), Everlastings, Hardenbergie violacea (Sarsparilla), Tetratheca sp. (Black Eyed Susan), Hovea sp. and Leucopogon. The white everlastings were standing tall, holding beautiful buds erect, about to burst into full bloom. We followed the track around this side of the rock and tried to see where the lyrebird was, but he was too clever for us.



the view into the Demon Fault, and start their lunch. around the rock and saw an old There were Kennedia species of White

On arriving back at the shelter shed, we found Patience had lit a fire, so we all had something more to eat and another cuppa, before heading

Margaret Carnell



back home.

Traprock – an ongoing saga.

At our July meeting David Wilson was asked if he could explain why the rock to the west of the Granite Belt is called traprock. There were a few suggestions made and David has looked on the web and come up with some information

Things just keep getting more complicated when it comes to trap rock. I found this piece on the Internet. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trap_rock It doesn't provide a definitive answer

Most of the country west of Stanthorpe and down to the border is marked on geological maps as sediments and minor volcanics. Where this article describes the rocks as being plutonic igneous (coarse-grained rocks such as granite through to gabbro), it also says the rock is typically basaltic – a volcanic rock! Now that's a paradox. Perhaps they mean a basaltic composition. In any case, I don't really see how this applies to our local Granite Belt rocks. I do wish I was an expert and could solve this on-going dilemma.

Here's another piece I found that may give a simpler explanation. <http://saltthesandbox.org/rocks/basalt.htm>

It says that basalt is known as trap rock but, that the term is often used for any hard dark rock. There are certainly dark sediments and low grade metamorphics on the western slopes of the Granite Belt that fit this description.

I think we may have our answer.

David Wilson

Outing Report to Mt Prentice on 29th July 2006

Leaders: Tenterfield Nats

It was very pleasant to be invited to join the Tenterfield Nats on their outing to Mt Prentice. We all met at the Bookookoorara Bridge and met our leader Geoff Robertson. A short distance down the Mt Lindesay Road, we entered private property and rationalised our vehicles. We travelled through two grazing paddocks before entering a timbered paddock and then on to the western border with Boonoo Boonoo National Park.



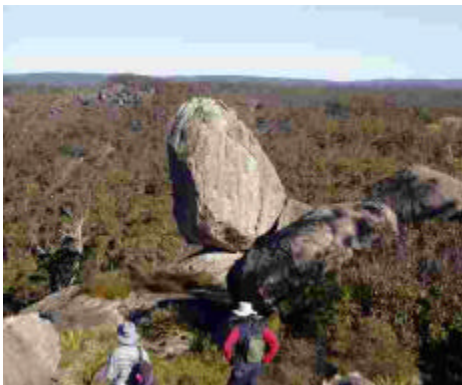
Wombat scats

After our morning tea we commenced our walk along a fire trail around the base of Mt Prentice, until we reached a montane wetland (hanging swamp). It was then a short walk through the timber to the slabs at the base of the mountain. Through that particular section of timber there was ample evidence of wombat activity. The wildflowers were just starting to flower with the odd *eriodontium*, *kunzea*, *leucopogon* and *hibbertia* in bloom.

At the top of the peak there were magnificent views towards Mt Lindesay and in other directions. We had lunch while admiring the view and using up space on our memory cards. Before returning, we walked a few hundred metres further east along the ridge and saw masses of *homoranthus*, some of which was in flower. The day was being walked at normal Nats pace and it was time to return to the cars. Geoff took us a different way back to the fire trail and when we were about the cars, about half of us then another peak where the National radio tower. It was quite towards the top, but all agreed worth the effort. There were lots (*Dendrobium speciosum*) on this all amazed at the unusual From there it was a fairly steep arrived back at the cars in time tea.



300 metres from walked up Parks have their strenuous that it was well of king orchids peak. We were balancing rock. descent. We for afternoon



It was very good to have on the outing both Geoff and Alan Robertson and John Sommerlad. Alan at one stage, owned the area of the park that we walked through and John Sommerlad was responsible for the purchase of this land by National Parks. Geoff Robertson knows the area like the back of his hand. Hopefully we can organize more outings with the Tenterfield club.

Kris Carnell

**Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 23rd August
7.30pm
QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street,
Stanthorpe
Followed by supper**

APOLOGY

I wish to apologise for the cancellation of the outing to The Cascades in Girraween N.P. on Friday, August 11th immediately after it was advertised in the *Border Post*. I staked my leg while cleaning up some ground and had to keep it elevated. I'm sorry for any inconvenience this caused.

Kris Carnell

Pre-Outing Report Rivertree 20th August 2006

Leader: Ian Milinovich

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 8.30am and drive to a property on Koreelah Creek at Rivertree owned by Mac and Gilruth Rees. When we reach the property we will change into 4WD vehicles and drive to the platypus pool for smoko.

After our cuppa we will travel on the "M3" which explores the higher ridges via roads upgraded by a mineral exploration company. There may be some short walks from the cars. We will have afternoon tea before heading for home. Phone Ian on 46810680 for any further information.

Update on Flickr

Michael Jefferies has sent the following information about Flickr:

I have set up a group on Flickr at
<http://www.flickr.com/groups/gbnaturalist/>

I have put some pictures on so that people can see; you don't need to be a member to see the pictures.

Access is by invitation only. I am the administrator at the moment with power of life and death, (at least control who can put pictures on and with the power to banish any baddies!!)

If you would like to send an email to those on line and invite people interested to request access, I'll send them an invitation! I can do this even when travelling but maybe not quickly. They will need a Flickr account OR I'll set up one to which I give others the password to put pictures on themselves.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 26th July, 2006**

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.37pm, with Kris welcoming members, including newcomer, Barbara Benham.

Attendance: There were 21 present at the meeting and 3 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 21st June 2006 were received and were accepted as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Rob McCosker, seconded by Peter Andrewartha. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Desley McDonagh – no longer wishes to remain a member
 2. Canon Total Technology – invoice for \$30.61 for photocopier
 3. Heritage Building Society – information on club accounts
 4. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – July 06
 5. Commonwealth Bank – statement for July
 6. Chinchilla Field Nats. – *Urimbirra* – July 06
 7. Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – June
 8. Qld Naturalist's Club – *QNC News* – July/August; *Selected Nature Notes from QNC News 1957–2004*; *Qld Naturalist* – June 06
 9. Fassifern Field Naturalists – newsletter – July
 10. Qld Parks and Wildlife Service – *Central Queensland Sandstone Belt Traveller's Guide*
 11. Membership renewals – Andy and Jenny Cameron; Peter and Lyn Haselgrove; Robin Riley
- This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Col Hockings. Carried.

Business Arising from the Correspondence:

1. Heritage Building Society

Dave Bright said that there was no need for the club account to be changed as we were not being charged any fees by the Commonwealth Bank.

Financial Statement for the period from 21/6/06 to 26/07/06:

Cash book balance as at 21/6/06 352.54

Receipts:

Subscriptions	115.00	
Projector rental	10.00	
		125.00

Expenditure:

Room rent (3 months)	45.00	
Photocopy paper	47.45	
Photocopier charges	27.52	
Govt. tax	2.50	
		119.97

Cash book balance as at 27/7/06 355.07

	Accounts for payment
Kris Carnell – stamps for newsletter	50.00
Total Technology Centre	30.51

This financial report was received on the motion of Dave Bright, seconded by Margaret Carnell. Carried

Outing Reports:

1. There was no Friday outing this month.
2. Sunday Outing to Wellington Rock

At least 20 Stanthorpe members plus 4 from the Tenterfield Naturalist Club participated in this outing. Smoko was had at the rest area where members listened to a tape recording made by one of the aboriginal owners of the Wellington Rock area. Members then explored the rock and found orchid leaves but no flowers and heard plenty of lyrebirds.

Pre-outing Reports:

1. Kris said they were happy to lead a day walk to The Cascades area in Girraween National Park, downstream of Dr Robert's waterhole. People should meet in Weeroona Park at 9am.
2. Sunday 20 August outing – Rivertree

Ian Milinovich outlined details of the proposed trip which will leave Weeroona Park at 8.30am. 4WD's will be needed to gain access to the area. It is hoped to climb the hill as well as go down to the creek to look for platypus.

Next meeting:

As this will be the club's Annual General Meeting, members were encouraged to bring along their slides or send digital photos to Kris for display on the night. The election of office bearers will also take place at the meeting and members were asked to consider nominating for a committee position. Dave Bright said the club's accounts have been audited.

General Business:

1. Insurance of our equipment

Kris has been investigating whether his house and contents insurance policy would cover the photocopier and data projector. The advice received is that they would be covered while they are in the house but not if they are at another location. To take out cover for them outside the house would be an additional \$350 a year. It was therefore resolved that we could not afford to pay for this additional level of cover and that we would have to be careful about who the data projector was lent to and where it went.

2. Outing to Mt Prentice in Boonoo Boonoo National Park

Kris said the Tenterfield Field Naturalists Club were having a walk to Mt Prentice on Saturday 29 July and have invited our members to come along. They will be approaching it from the Mt Lindsay Highway side and will be meeting at the Bookookoorara River bridge at 9am. The trip will be led by Alan Robertson, a local landowner.

3. Open Day at Tenterfield Park

Kris reminded members of the open day that was to be held in Tenterfield Park on 28 October from 10am.

4. QCWA luncheon – 3 August

Millie invited members to come along to a luncheon that the QCWA is organising to raise funds for Angel Flight.

5. Old Maryland Road

Michael Mueller asked members if anyone knew whether the Old Maryland Road connected to the Amosfield Road. He had tried to follow it through from Dalveen but it had ended up in a paddock. It was suggested he talk to Mark McNichol or to the Aikens at "Dalmoak" which is on the Marylands Road.

Specimens:

1. Dave Bright

The mysterious "rock" found in Dave's garden has turned out to probably be the root of a bromeliads that has picked up stones.

2. New Map of the Forests of North Eastern NSW

The NSW Forestry Commission has just released an updated version of their map of the forests of the north-east of NSW. It is available for \$12.90 from the Tenterfield tourist office.

The meeting closed at 8.16pm and was followed by a fascinating and very informative presentation from David Wilson on geology.